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- of English and American courts.* (St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co. 1912. Pp. xx, 864. \$4.50.)
- SPIES, G. *Zwei Denkschriften zum Petroleum-Monopol.* (Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht. 1913. Pp. xii, 154. 2.50 m.)
- STEINERT, R. *Kapitalsbewegung und Rentabilität der Leipziger Aktiengesellschaften.* (Leipzig: Otto Wigand. 1912. Pp. viii, 131. 6 m.)
- VOGELSTEIN, T. *Das Petroleummonopol.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1913. 1.20 m.)
- WIEDENFELD, K. *Das Rheinisch-Westfälische Kohlensyndikat. Moderne Wirtschaftsgestaltungen.* Veröffentlichungen des Kölner Museums für Handel und Industrie, 1. (Bonn: A. Marcus & E. Webers Verlag. 1912. 7.50 m.)
- WYER, S. S. *Regulation, valuation and depreciation of public utilities.* (Columbus, O.: Sears & Simpson Co. 1913. Pp. 313. \$5.)
- *Commission telephone cases.* (New York: American Telephone and Telegraph Co., Bureau of Commission Research, Legal Depart. 1912. Pp. xxxiii, 1215.)
- *Poor's manual of public utilities.* 1913 edition. (New York: Poor's Railroad Manual Co. 1913. \$7.50.)
- *Report on the German law of 1909 against unfair competition.* (London: King. 1913. 2d.)

Labor and Labor Organizations

Progress and Uniformity in Child-Labor Legislation. A Study in Statistical Measurement. By WILLIAM F. OGBURN. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Vol. XLVIII, No. 2. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1912. Pp. 219. \$1.75.)

Dr Ogburn's study raises some interesting questions regarding the possible value, either scientific or practical, of the use of the statistical method in the field of comparative legislation. In this study, the child-labor laws of the various states from 1872 to 1912 are the statistical "data," and according to the author's statement the categories used in transcribing the laws from the statute books "are, in a sense, the units of measurement." Tabular and graphic methods of presentation unfortunately do not have an unlimited field of usefulness, and a study of some of Dr. Ogburn's tables, for example those on pages 71-78, will show how insuperable are the difficulties in the way of tabular presentation of such "data" as he had in hand.

It is not possible to discuss in detail the various statistical diffi-

culties that are evolved in this study. One illustration may be found in the working out of a series of "average age limits" for all the states and of "average numbers of hours of labor." To say that the "average age limit" for "any gainful occupation" is 14.04 or that the "average number of hours" in any gainful occupation is 9.00 seems a clear misuse of the average. These "average" age and hour limits merely conceal the useful facts that some states have very high age limits and other states ridiculously low ones, and that some states have short working days for working children and other states terribly long ones. The condition of the ten-year-old child in the Georgia mills is not improved by the fact that there is a sixteen-year age limit in Montana, although the "average age limit" in the two states may seem to throw a more favorable light on his situation.

The author's method of calculating "uniformity" in child-labor legislation is to count the points of likeness in the different state laws relating to child labor for each period of five years since 1879. It is of interest that progress toward uniformity measured by this method would not necessarily be progress towards satisfactory child-labor legislation; since a high degree of uniformity may mean merely that large numbers of states have bad laws that are similar, and a departure from uniformity may be due to the fact that a few states have marched ahead and passed very enlightened laws on the subject. A more useful method of measuring uniformity might show how far the different state laws differ, for example, from the good child-labor law proposed by the American Bar Association's Commission on Uniform Laws. It is of interest that although the author speaks of the fact that "the work done by the American Bar Association has been admirable," no attempt is made to present the results of their work.

Finally, it should be noted that this volume does not take account of the relation between child-labor legislation and social well-being; and does not discuss the social results of the laws which it tabulates. There is no attempt to ascertain how far the provisions regarding age limits and hours and working-papers, which are so carefully enumerated, can be, or are being enforced. The method here followed necessarily ignores, for example, the fact that the Illinois law of 1893 took children out of the factories only to leave them on the street because a good compulsory education law, the corollary of every good

child-labor law, had not been enacted; or the fact of current interest that the provisions in the present Illinois law relating to illiteracy and attendance at evening schools are unenforceable. It is, in short, doubtful whether a study of child-labor legislation from a purely academic standpoint by one who has no knowledge of the conditions which such legislation is designed to meet can ever be of practical value, however useful it may be as a basis for discussion in a university seminar.

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New York Typographical Union No. 6: Study of a Modern Trade Union and its Predecessors. By GEORGE A. STEVENS. (Albany: State Department of Labor. 1912. Pp. v, 717.)

The present work is the most complete and satisfactory study of an American local trade union which has yet appeared. The New York Typographical Union deserved intensive study on account of its importance, its long history, and the character of the available source material. The union is one of the largest in the world; it includes in its membership all the union printers in Greater New York and in 1911 had approximately 7000 members. The present volume is a history not only of the union, which was organized in 1850, but also of the associations which preceded it. It is, therefore, a history of printers' organizations in New York from 1794 to 1911. A considerable part of this period had already been covered by Mr. Ethelbert Stewart in his "Early Organizations of Printers," published in the *Bulletin of the Department of Labor* for November, 1905, which carried the history down to 1830. From that date to 1911 Mr. Stevens has had a clear field. The chief sources of the study are the manuscript records of the New York Typographical Society from 1807 to 1818, those of the New York Typographical Association from 1831 to 1840, and of the union from 1850 to 1911. No other local union in this country affords a mass of documentary material so nearly continuous and of such intimate character. In addition, Mr. Stevens has studiously examined the files of many New York newspapers.

The work is purely historical. No attempt has been made to explain in the light of industrial changes the evolution of the union's policies or to estimate the effect of its rules. The book